

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

206A Just Mist

by Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: How do plants that aren't in soil get the water they need to survive?

Answer: Sometimes (like in a Cloud Forest) they get water from the moisture in the air.

Scientist: Jennifer Williams

Logline: Elinor can't reach a hanging plant to water it and needs her father's help, until a trip to the Cloud Forest helps her find a way to water it all by herself.

Primary Curriculum Goals:

SEP1. Asking questions a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design a new or improved object or tool

Secondary Curriculum Goals:

LS3. Understand that all animals need food in order to live and grow, that they get their food from plants or from other animals, and that plants need water and light to live and grow: a. Observe ways that animals and plants get what they need to live and grow. b. Describe patterns of the basic needs of plants and animals to understand what they need to survive. c. Help care for living things at home or in the classroom

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting Concept Structure and Function'): Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world.

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mr. Rabbit, Mz. Mole

SECONDARIES: Other kids, Bus Driver (Joe Mouse)

LOCATIONS: Elinor's house, outside school, inside bus, cloud forest

PROPS: Watering can, potted plants, spiky hanging plant, rain ponchos, Olive's Nature book, clipboard, drawing paper, markers, magnifying glass, mister.

FIRST DRAFT: March 07, 2023

SECOND DRAFT: March 22, 2023

POLISH: April 5, 2023

RECORD DRAFT: April 26, 2023

ext_elinor_house_001

Complete



1

-BG REVEAL.

MAX BG REVEAL HOME
+ SCHOOL

int_elinor_liv_rm_002

Complete



INT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - MORNING

CLOSE ON: Water pouring out of a spout into a leafy potted plant.

PULL OUT TO SEE ELINOR watering the plant. She's wearing her backpack, ready to go to school.

1

ELINOR

There you go little plant. Some nice, cool water for your roots. Mmmm. Drink up.

1

int_elinor_liv_rm_002

Complete



MR. RABBIT <CHUCKLES> while entering the scene. -COMING DOWN THE STAIRS

WIDE. ELINOR EXITS SC (RUNNING)

MR. RABBIT

Morning, Honey Bunny. Looks like you're doing your new job very well.

INT-ELINOR-LIV-RM-002
AT BOTTOM OF STAIRS
INT-ELINOR-LIV-RM-002

MID SHOT

int_elinor_liv_rm_009

Complete



int_elinor_liv_rm_003

Complete



ELINOR
Mm-hmm. I love watering the plants. I'm going to do it every day before I go to school.

MR. RABBIT

It's getting a little late. Why don't you let me finish.

MID SHOT

ELINOR

No thank you, I want to do it all by myself.

MR. RABBIT

Don't you have a field trip today? (ELINOR WALKING INTO SC)

He points to his watch.

WIDE

ELINOR HITS HER MARK, TURNING TO DAD (2)

I do! Mz. Mole says we're going to a very interesting place. I just have one more plant to water...

MID SHOT

① ELINOR WALKS TOWARDS HANGING PLANT, STILL LOOKING BACK AT HER DAD. CAM TRACKS W/ HER REVEALING BOTTOM OF HANGING PLANT.
She looks up at a PLANT WITH SPIKY LEAVES in a hanging basket above her
② ELINOR TURNS TO LOOK AT BOTTOM OF HANGING PLANT, THEN LOOKS UP.
-CAM PANS UP TO TOP OF HANGING PLANT

ELINOR (CONT'D)

Huh. It looks different from the other plants. Its leaves are all spiky.

WIDE

int_elinor_liv_rm_010

Complete



7

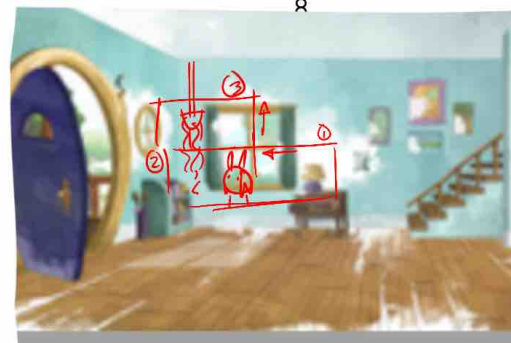
5

4

3

8

8



Elinor holds the watering can up toward the plant. But it's just too high. <EFFORT SOUNDS> She goes on her tippy toes.

Mr. Rabbit offers his hands for a lift.

9 MR. RABBIT
Need a lift? - DAD ENTERS WIDE FROM LING 8.

Elinor tries jumping up as she answers.

10 ELINOR
I really want to...do it...myself.

She stops, frustrated. ① HOPS ② INTO FRAME ③ TIMES

11 ELINOR (CONT'D)
(SIGH) But I guess I can't.

He picks her up so she can easily water the plant.

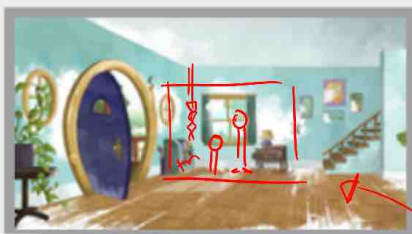
12 ELINOR (CONT'D)
(to the plant)

I wish there were another way I could water you, little plant.

(to her Dad)

int_elinor_liv_rm_010

Complete



Thanks Dad.

sets her down. She's a little disappointed.

MR. RABBIT
I'm happy to help. Um ... field trip?

ELINOR
<GASP!> Okay, bye Dad. Bye plants.

He smiles and waves at her as she hurries off.

2 EXT. SCHOOL YARD - LATER

BUS PARKED.

<SFX: VROOM> A bus arrives just outside the school. Kids (GOAT TWINS, SALLY, SILAS) from the class are there in groups, excited.

OLIVE has a CLIPBOARD with SOME BLANK PAGES, and some MARKERS. She's putting them in her backpack as ARI watches.

15 ARI
Hi, Olive. Planning to do some drawing on our field trip?

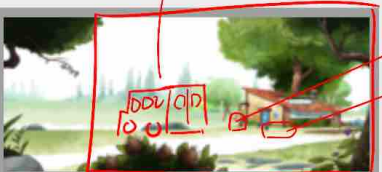
bg_school_01f 15

Complete



bg_school_01

Complete BUS 3/4 BK.



OLIVE & ARI
OTHER KIDS

ext_elinor_house_001a

Complete



① ELINOR RUNS OUT THE DOOR
② DAD EXITS, STANDING IN FR OF DOOR, WAITING.
(HOLDING WATERING CAN)

16 OLIVE 16
Yup. I want to remember everything that happens. So I brought my new markers and some papers. MID SHOT

17 ARI 17
Hmm. Maybe I should try that. Then maybe I'd remember to clean my room. MID SHOT

Olive <SFX: CHUCKLES> and then looks around for Elinor.

18 OLIVE 18
Where's Elinor? WIDE

19 ARI 19
Don't worry. She wouldn't miss a field trip. Any second now, she's gonna hop up and say ... C.U. EYES CLOSED (CONFIDENT)

20 ELINOR (O.S.) 20
(breathless) I'm here.

Elinor races up to them <HUFFING AND PUFFING>.- BG_SCHOOL_01e

21 OLIVE 21
Elinor. You made it. WIDE

22 ELINOR 22
I hopped as fast as I could. I didn't want to miss this field trip. MID SINGLE

Ari smiles at Olive knowingly.

23 ARI 23
Told ya.

24 OLIVE 24
Why did you have to hop fast to get here? 2 MID SHOT

25 ELINOR 25
My mom and dad gave me a new job: to water all the plants in the house. It took longer than I thought. MID SINGLE

26 OLIVE 26
Ooh, that's an important job. Plants can't live without water. WIDE

Elinor <SIGHS>.

27 ELINOR 27

MID
SNGLE

Mm hmm. But ... there was one plant
that was too high for me to water.
My dad had to help me reach it.

28 OLIVE 28

Hmmm ... Maybe there's another way
you can water it.

29 ELINOR 29

That's what I keep thinking.

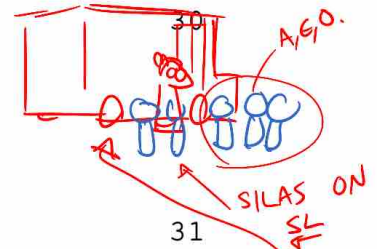
MZ. MOLE calls the kids together.

30 MZ. MOLE 30
Okay, kids. Today we're going to a
very special place, where there are
lots of different kinds of plants.

PARTIAL
REBE
SHOTS
OF OATG.

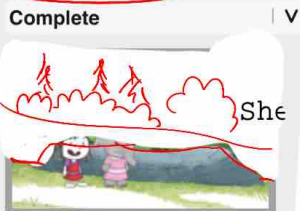
MID SHOT

WIDE-KIDS GATHER AROUND. MZ MOLE THEN CONTINUES



bg_school_03

<WALLA: OOOOH! AHH! WOW! etc>



OLIVE
Is it a giant garden, Mz. Mole?

31

She smiles almost mischievously, then announces with glee.

MZ. MOLE 32
It's ... A Cloud Forest.

The kids' faces turn to confusion, but still excited.

33 ARI 33

I've never seen a forest of clouds
before. Are the leaves all puffy
and white?

34 ELINOR 34

(GIGGLE) I don't think the forest
is made of clouds, Ari.

35 SILAS 35

Is it a forest in the clouds?

USE SAME BG FROM
LINE 30

36 OLIVE 36

(JOKING) If it's IN the clouds,
we'll need an airplane, not a bus.

37 ARI 37

Or maybe our bus can fly! Maybe
it's an airbus!

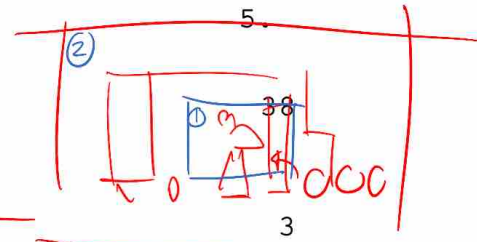
Ari swoops around like he's a flying bus. <WALLA: KIDS LAUGH>

BG FROM LINE
30 - WIDE

38

MID SHOT ①

WIDE ②



MZ. MOLE
Ha! Let's find out. Hop on board.



INT. BUS - FOLLOWING CUT TO KIDS SITTING W SEATS (LAST KID SITTING NEXT TO ARI)
Mz. Mole stands by the bus driver, JOE MOUSE. The kids climb aboard and find seats.

39

MZ. MOLE
Ready kids? Next stop, the Cloud Forest! Here we go!

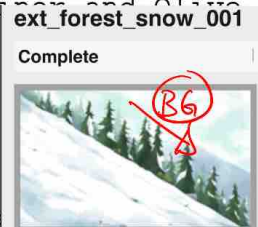
the kids all PAN ACCROSS KIDS react with excitement. <WALLA: YAY! ETC.>

Elinor and Olive sit beside each other, and Ari sits in the row right behind them.

SEE MONTAGE ON NEXT PAGE

INSERT: MONTAGE OF BUS TRAVELING ALONG DIFFERENT ROADS, KIDS LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW CURIOUSLY, BUS GOING UP AND UP.

ON: Ari excitedly sticks his head in between Elinor and Olive from the seat behind.



40

ARI

We must be close to the Cloud Forest. We're up really high!

They all look out the window and realize they're on a mountain! <WALLA: EXCITED OOHS AND AAAHS>

INT. BUS - LATER

The bus is stopped. Mz. Mole stands at the front and hands out rain ponchos to the kids as they disembark. When Elinor, Olive and Ari get their ponchos, they look confused.

41

OLIVE

Why do we need rain ponchos, Mz. Mole?

42

ARI

Yeah, I thought we're going to a Cloud Forest, not a Rain Forest.

Mz. Mole enjoys tantalizing them. She disembarks too.

43

MZ. MOLE

You'll see. Follow me.



EXT-CLOUD-FOREST

TRY TO KEEP CLOUD FOREST BUS UNDER 15

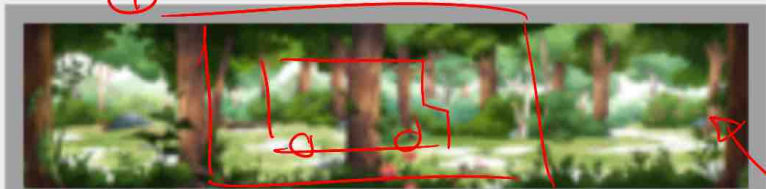
DRIVING MONTAGE

ext_down_trail_001

Complete

V

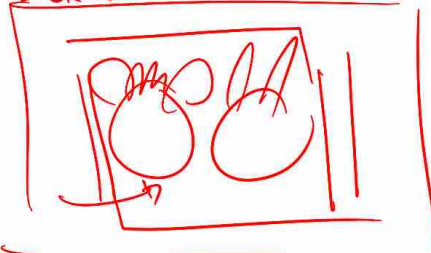
①



BG

②

OLIVE + ELINOR MOVE UP TO
LOOK OUT WINDOW



IN WINDOW IS REFLECTION
OF TREES FROM PREV FG
- THE TREES IN REFLECTION CLEARS
TO REVEAL FIELD OF FLOWERS.

③

ext_grassy_trail_002

Complete

V



SUBTLE BG MOVG.

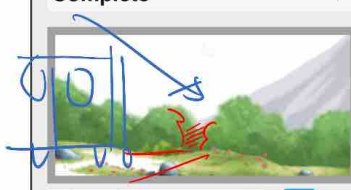
④

BUS ENTERS IN FG, EXITS THROUGH
OPENING IN TREES IN BG.

ext_trail_002b

Complete

V





5 **EXT. CLOUD FOREST - FOLLOWING**

Mz. Mole and the kids are in a clearing in the Cloud Forest, looking around in awe.

44 ARI 44
Mz. Mole, I see a forest, but I
don't see any clouds.

Ari flaps his wings and rises up, looking this way and that for clouds.

45 ARI (CONT'D) 45
Don't see any clouds up here
either.

Olive <GIGGLES>

46 OLIVE 46
Stay there, Ari. I'm going to draw
you.

She does a drawing of Ari hovering and looking both ways.

Mz. Mole looks off, and then smiles as she sees something coming.

47 MZ. MOLE 47
Just wait a moment. ... Aha! Here
we go.

ANGLE ON: A CLOUD wafts into the forest, surrounding the kids, so we only see bits of them.

<WALLA: KIDS GASP, "WHAT'S GOING ON?" ETC>.

48 ARI (O.S.) 48
Hey. Where did everybody go?

49 OLIVE (O.S.) 49
I can't see anything.

50 ELINOR 50
You're right Olive. It's like we're
... inside a cloud.

The cloud drifts through and suddenly it's gone, and we see all the kids. Ari is still up in the air. He looks around, happy to see everyone again.

51 ARI 51
Oh, there you are. That was
amazing!

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Mz. Mole smiles as the kids gather around.

52 ELINOR 52
Were we really inside a cloud, Mz.
Mole?

53 MZ. MOLE 53
We sure were!

Kids amazed. <WALLA: OOOH! AWESOME!>

54 ARI 54

My mom always says my head is in
the clouds, and now it actually
was!

Everyone <SFX: GIGGLES>.

55 MZ. MOLE. 55

This forest is so high up in the mountains, some clouds form and move right through it.

56 OLIVE 56
So now we know why it's called a
Cloud Forest.

Elinor looks at her poncho and sees that it's wet.

57 ELINOR 57
Look. I'm covered in water. My rain
poncho's all wet!

Silas shakes like a dog and WATER SPRAYS off him.

58 SILAS 58
Haha! Mine too!

ARI
Why are we all wet, Mz. Mole?

60 MZ. MOLE 60
Why do you think, kids?

61 ELINOR 61
Hmmm... We weren't wet before the
cloud came through, so ... the
water must've come from the cloud.

62 OLIVE 62
I read about this in my Nature
Book.

THOUGHT BUBBLE - shows a drops of water (and a little dust) forming a cloud.

63 OLIVE (CONT'D) 63
Clouds are made of tiny drops of water - and some dust. But mostly water.

ANGLE ON: Mz Mole.

64 MZ. MOLE 64
That's right. It's also called "mist".

Ari smiles.

65 ARI 65
Ahah! So we solved the MIST-ery!

<WALLA: GIGGLES AND GROANS>

ANGLE ON: Olive who looks at her drawing of Ari with surprise.

66 OLIVE 66
Oh no. Look at my drawing.

Elinor and Ari look as she holds up her drawing. It's wet and parts of it are blurry and runny.

67 ARI 67
Aw, it got soaked. Now I look all fuzzy.

68 OLIVE 68
(a little disappointed) I really liked that drawing of Ari.

Olive puts a fresh sheet on her clipboard.

ON: Mz. Mole.

69 MZ. MOLE 69
Okay, now that you know why it's called a Cloud Forest, would you like to walk around?

<WALLA: "YEAH! LET'S GO!" "COOL!" "LET'S GO THIS WAY." "WE LOVE EXPLORING!" ETC.>

70 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 70
Don't go too far.

E, O + A EXIT SL

WE DON'T SEE IT WET UNTIL SHE HOLDS IT UP. THEN CUT IN CLOSE.

The kids head off into the forest, looking and pointing.



EXT. DIFFERENT PART OF THE CLOUD FOREST - LATER

6

A giant fern fills the screen. Then Elinor's hand comes in and moves it away, revealing Elinor, Olive and Ari peering
around in wonder at all the green plants.

71

OLIVE

I've never seen so many cool plants. Everything is so green.



They step carefully through the ferns and continue looking around. Suddenly Ari's eye is caught by something.

72

ARI

Yeah, even the rocks are green. Look!

72

They peer down at a ROCK that's covered with MOSS, so it looks like the whole rock is green.

Elinor joins Ari to have a look.

ANGLE ON: Olive smiles.

73

OLIVE

Whoa, I'm going to draw it.

73

She starts drawing Elinor inspecting the rock.

74

ELINOR

A green rock? I've never seen that before. Let's take a closer look.

74

Elinor uses a MAGNIFYING GLASS and leans close to the rock.

ON: ELINOR THROUGH THE GLASS. She looks surprised. <HMMM>.

75

ELINOR (CONT'D)

I don't think the rock is green.

75

THROUGH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS: We see that the green is actually tiny leaves.

76

ELINOR (CONT'D)

It's covered with little tiny plants. I see itty bitty leaves.

76

77

ARI

What kind of plant lives on a rock?

77

ELINOR PARTS FERNS, + WE SEE HER MDSHOT.

POV -

MOVE MOSSY ROCK TO BG ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF BG THAN HANGING PLANT

DON'T FRAME TO SHOW HANGING PLANT WHILE KIDS ARE AT THE ROCK

OUT OF HER BACKPACK.

Elinor and Ari look at each other and shrug, puzzled, as Olive sets aside her drawing and consults her Nature Book.

78

OLIVE

I'll look it up in my Nature Book.
(she looks up) Aha! It says it's called "moss". It's a tiny plant that can grow on rocks.

-OUT OF SATCHEL (LEFT HIP)

78

Back on Elinor who is still curious.

79

ELINOR

79

But, how can it grown on a rock? I thought all plants grew in soil. That's how they get their water, right?

Olive puts her Nature Book away and picks up her drawing as Elinor ponders. <WALLA: ELINOR: HMMMM>

Ari shrugs.

80

ARI

80

It's a mystery.

81

OLIVE

81

You mean ... it's a MOSS-tery.

Elinor and Ari react with <GIGGLES>.

CAN HOP UP ON ROCK

Ari looks and sees another cloud approaching.

82

ARI

82

Look. There's another cloud coming.

83

OLIVE

83

Watch! I'm going to disappear, right before your eyes!

FROM SR LEFT

A CLOUD wafts through, obscuring Olive and the others.

<WALLA: "HAHA! ME TOO!" "WOAH" "SO COOOL".

The kids jump up and down, so their heads pop in and out of view. They <GIGGLE AND LAUGH> having a blast playing in the cloud.

THE CLOUD dissipates and moves on out.

Olive looks at her drawing and reacts.

84

OLIVE (CONT'D)

84

Oh no. My drawing got all wet again.

94 ELINOR 94
But how can it grow without any
soil? Where do the roots go? Let's
look closer.

Ari points at some roots that run down the trunk of the tree.

Olive looks at the roots and then draws.

95 OLIVE 95
Huh. The roots stop on the trunk.
They don't go to the ground.

She holds up her drawing which shows the roots coming down
the tree trunk and stopping.

96 ELINOR 96
I don't get it. Then how does it
get water? My mom's spiky plant
needs watering every day.

Suddenly, another cloud rolls through.

97 ARI 97
Uh oh. Incoming cloud!

Elinor looks pensive <HMMMMMM...>

As the cloud moves off, Olive suddenly remembers her drawing.

98 OLIVE 98
On no. My drawing!

She looks disappointed when she sees her blurry drawing.

99 OLIVE (CONT'D) 99
Every time a cloud comes through,
my drawings get soaked.

SILAS shakes and sprays water again.

100 SILAS 100
Everything gets soaked.

Elinor has an "Aha" moment and looks at the spiky plant.

CLOSE ON THE PLANT. We see water droplets on the leaves.

101 ELINOR 101
Everything. The plant on the
tree...

Now Ari gets it.

ARI

And the moss on the rock.

ELINOR

They all get their water...

104 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 104
From the clouds!

<WALLA EXCITEMENT>. Mz. Mole joins them.

105	MZ. MOLE	105
	Hi kids. Sounds like you discovered something while looking at that airplant.	

106 ELINOR 106
Oh. So that's what it's called: an
airplant.

107 OLIVE 107

Mz. Mole. You said that clouds are
made mostly of water... Just like
mist.

Ms. Mole nods.

108 ELINOR 108
So ... we realized that, in the
Cloud Forest, some plants don't
have roots on the ground. So they
get water from the clouds.

109

MZ. MOLE

109

That's right! Plants like mosses
and airplants get water in lots of
different ways. From the soil,
through their roots, and also from
the air, through their leaves. In a
Cloud forest, there's water
everywhere!

The MUSIC SWELLS.

As they sing, clouds waft in and out, and they revel in the droplets of water that come with the clouds.

110 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 110

Some plants don't have their roots
in the ground,
But they still get water, don't
frown.

AT - WING

AT HANGING PLANT

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

Cause when there are clouds hanging
around,
There's lots of water to be found.

'Cause...
There's water in the air.
There's water in the air.
When you have clouds
There's water everywhere!

CLOUD BECOMES
A WIPE TO REVEAL

AT
MUSSY ROCK

ELINOR: So when it is a cloudy day,

OLIVE: The plants all smile and
shout hooray!

ARI: Because they know water's on
the way.

ALL: The clouds will give them all
a spray!

ALL: 'Cause...
There's water in the air.
There's water in the air.
When you have clouds
There's water everywhere!

CLOUD COMES
THROUGH ON
CHORUS. KIDS
HOP UP OUT OF
CLOUDS INTO VIEW
ONE AT A TIME,
ALL AT ONCE...
MIX IT UP

MUSIC ENDS. -CLOUD EXITS

111

ELINOR

111

I love the Cloud Forest.

Olive is looking at her drawings. The water has blurred them
so much, it looks like there are clouds in her drawings.

112

ARI

112

Me too. Except it's too bad Olive's
drawings got wet.

113

OLIVE

113

No, I love them! They look like
they're inside a cloud, see?
They're all fuzzy. Now I'll always
remember what happened today.

114

ARI

114

Yeah, getting soaked with water by
the mist was fun.

Elinor is hit with another light-bulb moment.

115

ELINOR

115

(GASP) And ... it helped me solve
my plant problem!

8 INT. ELINOR'S HOME - THE NEXT MORNING 8

Elinor is busy watering the plants again. She is near the hanging plant as her father walks by.

116 MR. RABBIT 116
Need some help watering that plant
up there again?

Elinor shakes her head and smiles.

117 ELINOR 117
No thanks Dad. I know how to water
it all by myself, because of our
trip to the Cloud Forest.

He looks curious as she aims a mister full of water at the hanging plant and pumps a bunch of squirts at it.

118 ELINOR (CONT'D) 118
I learned that it's called an
airplant, and I can give it water
the way it gets it in the Cloud
Forest: It just needs a little bit
of mist!

Mr. Rabbit is very impressed.

119 MR. RABBIT 119
Great job, Honey Bunny!

Then he gets a twinkle in his eye, and holds out his hand, gesturing for Elinor to hand him the mister.

120 MR. RABBIT (CONT'D) 120
But I think you "mist" a spot.

Elinor looks puzzled as her dad takes the mister. Then he aims it at her and gives her a squirt.

Elinor <SQUEALS AND LAUGHS> and they start a playful game with her dad chasing her around.

9 EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING 9

We hear <MORE SHRIEKS AND LAUGHTER> as we FADE TO...

WHITE.

— USING BGS
FROM OPENING
SCENES.

— CROUCHING DOWN,
FACE TO FACE w/
ELINOR.